

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01404 231417Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----058518 231422Z /46
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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0119
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1404

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AF/S FOR AMBASSADOR NORLAND FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BC
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: DRAFT BOTSWANA ACTION PLAN

REF: STATE 139160

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES DRAFT BOTSWANA ACTION PLAN EXCELLENT AND
ACCURATE STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND WHILE
RECOGNIZING THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ARMS TRANSFER QUESTION, WE WOULD
NEVERTHELESS SUGGEST YOU MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER MAKING SOME
MENTION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE AS A SUPPORT FOR BOTSWANA'S
COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. THEREFORE, PARAGRAPH B(1) MIGHT
READ: IN THE CONTEXT OF POLITICAL OR CIVIL LIBERTIES, THERE
IS NO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN BOTSWANA. HOWEVER, DUE TO ITS
STATUS AS A DEVELOPING NATION, BOTSWANA IS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE
ITS CITIZEN AND REFUGEES FROM NEIGHBORING STATES ADE-
QUATE FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION. AN APPRO-
PRIATE U.S. RESPONSE WOULD BE TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE U.S.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THROUGH OUR AID AND PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS
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AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS. FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE OF
PRESSURES EXERTED ON BOTSWANA BY REFUGEES, NATIONALIST
LIBERATION GROUPS, OTHER FRONTLINE STATES AND THE WHITE
MINORITY RULED NATIONS SURROUNDING HER -- ALL PARTIES TO
CURRENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN UNREST -- BOTSWANA'S IMPECCABLE
HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IS SUBJECT TO INCREASING STRAIN.
THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AN APPRO-

PRIATE RESPONSE MIGHT WELL INCLUDE THE PROVIDING OF SOME
U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE AS REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF BOTSWANA. THIS WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO THE BATSWANA AND
OTHER THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THOSE NATIONS THAT ADHERE
TO BASIC STANDARDS OF HUMAN DIGNITY.
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